

## Corps, Citizens Discuss Possible Improvements at Lock 25

Old Monroe, Mo. – More than 50 people attended a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-sponsored public meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 26. There, they got the latest information on possible plans to add a 1200-foot lock chamber to Lock 25, near Winfield, Mo., and about parallel plans to restore a more sustainable ecosystem to the Upper Mississippi River. The work is projected as part of the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP.)

At the meeting, a team of Corps engineers, program managers and representatives of other disciplines, presented the latest information on the project.



The session was organized to enable citizens to hold informal discussions with Corps subject-matter experts before the presentation. A detailed presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Corps representatives also stayed after the meeting ended for additional informal dialog.

Participants were told that results of extensive physical hydraulic modeling has indicated that the project as completed, will not require that the Corps acquire any land on a point immediately southward

along the Missouri bank of the river.

This issue had been contentious at an earlier public meeting in May 2005. There was a caution however, that work still remained to be done to determine if there would be any requirements during the projected 10-year construction period.

There was also discussion of temporary construction easements that would be required, as well as areas to deposit dredge material on land.

During the question and answer period, two subjects were the primary focus.

The future of a body of water located inland of the existing lock structure – Sand Slough – generated substantial comments and questions. Progressive silting of the slough has diminished its ability to support fish and other water animals.

Alternatives to reverse this trend – in connection with the lock expansion plan or as part of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) project – were discussed. Missouri State Representative Wayne Henke and a Missouri Department of Natural Resources representative at the meeting said they would look into moving Sandy Slough up on the priority list if there was enough support for that.



The other issue was changes to navigation and impacts to operating the Winfield Ferry. The audience was told that studies of the 1-to-120 model in Vicksburg, Miss., showed that navigation safety and efficiency was improved with the new lock. They also learned that the Corps will explore those conditions as they will exist during various stages of completion during the construction effort. Measures including helper boats may have to be implemented during that period.

Local residents also voiced concerns about construction traffic and potential damage to their access road.

Attendees were encouraged to enter written comments after the meeting and to sign up to be on distribution for periodic newsletters concerning the NESP. They were also told that future meetings are planned, including smaller sessions with specific land owners that might be affected during construction.

Just as comments at the May 2005 meeting were factored into the last 15-months of planning, comments from this latest session will be carefully considered as planning moves forward.

Interested persons may get additional information about all aspects of the NESP at:  
<http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/NESP/>